estimated expenditure of Rs. 20,000-25,000 crores will have to be made to effect these modifications. The plans for supply of ultra low sulphur petrol and diesel in the entire country have not been finalised yet.

Projects behind Schedule

*644. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 430 projects are behind schedule and this has adversely affected the approved cost of these projects and consequently there has been substantial increase in the costs;

(b) what measures are being adopted to contain time and cost overrun; and

(c) whether there is any system of annual or mid-term appraisal of such projects and whether the machinery to conduct this appraisal is adequate or alert?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Out of 452 projects presently on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, 204 projects are having cost overrun and 205 projects are having time overrun. With respect to the original approved cost, cost overrun of all the 452 projects is 36%.

(b) The measures taken to reduce time and cost overruns of these projects include the following:—

(i) Review of projects on monthly as well as quarterly basis by the Government. This enables the Government to identify the constraints and help them to remove these constraints and to resolve the problems affecting the implementation of the projects;

(ii) Indepth critical review of the progress by the Project Authorities and Administrative Ministries and follow up with the State Governments

(for acquisition of land and provision of infrastructure facilities like water and power, ensuring law and order at project site, etc.). with manufacturers for expediting supply of equipment, with contractors, consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays;

(iii) Setting up of an Empowered Committee in each administrative Ministry for resolution of problem;

(iv) Bringing modifications in the Land Acquisition Act and Rehabilitation Package;

(v) Appointment of a nodal officer for each project co-terminus with the duration of the project;

(vi) Inter-ministerial coordination for resolving problems of inter-ministerial nature;

(vii) Making available matching funds to complete the projects in the advanced stage of implementation and as per schedule;

(viii) Regular monitoring by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation; and

(ix) Exceptional Review by the Minister-in-Charge, Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Secretariat.

(c) All major projects costing Rs. 100 crores and above are intensively reviewed every month. Besides, all projects are also monitored on a quarterly basis and specific corrective measures are suggested to the concerned administrative Ministries to avoid further delays and cost overruns. Quarterly Annual Performance Review Meetings and Empowered Committee Meetings for mid term appraisal of projects are held by the concerned Administrative Ministries for review of status. Standing Committees have been set up in 22 administrative Ministries to go into the causes of time and cost overruns for projects costing Rs. 50 crores and above and to initiate corrective measures. The Reports of these Committees fora part of the notes for revised cost estimates of the projects with time and cost overruns and are submitted to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.